

long-term benefits to the fishery resource that are attainable without additional funding. A new data collection project that would not provide sufficient useful information to help Gulf fisheries unless the project received additional funding would not qualify under this program.

Projects that would qualify under these criteria might include restoration/development of hurricane or flood-damaged habitat, enhancement of stocks that declined due to hypoxia or habitat loss, or fishing capacity reduction projects to alleviate the excess capacity targeting the depleted stocks and to mitigate the financial harm suffered by fishermen who targeted these stocks.

II. Determinations and Administration

All state grant proposals will be reviewed by the Department of Commerce, NOAA, and NMFS. Final project selections will be made by NMFS ensuring that there is no duplication with other projects funded by NOAA or other Federal organizations. If a proposal is accepted, NOAA will enter into a financial assistance agreement with the submitting state.

Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance

The Program is listed in the "Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance" under No. 11.452, Unallied Industry Projects.

Classification

This proposed program has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of E.O. 12866. The Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulation of the Department of Commerce certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration as follows:

I certify that this notice would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Pursuant to this program, a total of \$10 million will be divided among five states to design a program of assistance to eligible industry participants. As each state has flexibility to design its own implementation of the program, the funds to be allocated to each state are likely to be spent on numerous varied projects. Some projects might provide direct financial benefits to fishermen while other projects might involve environmental restoration and research, which are designed to benefit the fishery directly, and only indirectly benefit fishermen. Given the extensive universe of potential applicants, the limited funds available, and the wide range of potential projects, it is unlikely that 20 percent or more of the industry will be affected to an extent in excess of 5 percent of gross revenues. As the program is meant to benefit the industry, it is also unlikely that

the action will precipitate a 10 percent increase in compliance cost for 20 percent or more of industry participants, or cause 2 percent of fishery participants to cease operations.

Therefore, an initial Regulatory Flexibility Act analysis was not prepared.

Authority: Public Law 99-659 (16 U.S.C. 4107 *et seq.*); Public Law 102-396; Public Law 104-134.

Dated: December 26, 1996.

Gary C. Matlock,

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-198-000]

Gulf States Transmission Corporation; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

December 26, 1996.

Take notice that on December 20, 1996, Gulf States Transmission Corporation (GSTC) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, certain pro forma tariff sheets to be effective January 1, 1997.

GSTC states that the purpose of the filing is to reflect changes to comply with Order No. 582, issued September 28, 1995 in Docket No. RM95-3-000.

GSTC states that copies of the filing are being mailed to its jurisdictional customers and interested state regulatory agencies.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are

available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-33321 Filed 12-31-96; 8:45 am]

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[Project Nos. 503, 1971, 1975, 2061, 2726, 2777, 2778—Idaho]

Idaho Power Company; Notice of Public Meeting

December 26, 1996.

On Tuesday, February 4, 1997, in Boise, Idaho, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staff will host a public meeting to solicit input from federal and state agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and the public on how the Commission should conduct the cumulative effects analysis for the relicensing of eight of the Idaho Power Company's Snake River hydroelectric projects.

The eight projects are: Bliss (P-1975), Lower Salmon Falls (P-2061), Upper Salmon Falls (P-2777), Shoshone Falls (P-2778), C.J. Strike (P-2055), Upper and Lower Malad (P-2726), Hells Canyon (P-1971), and Swan Falls (P-503). These projects, located on a 360-mile-long reach of the mainstem Snake River in Idaho, have existing licenses that will expire between December 1997 and June 2010.

The meeting will be held at: Boise Centre on the Grove, 850 W. Front Street, Waters Room, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The meeting will be recorded by a court reporter.

To help focus discussions at the public meeting, the Commission will mail a discussion paper titled "Approaches to Cumulative Analysis for the Snake River Basin Relicensing," to all entities on the Snake River Relicensing Collaborative Team mailing list and the Bliss, Lower Salmon Falls, and Upper Salmon Falls Projects mailing list. Copies of the discussion paper will also be available at the public meeting.

For further information please contact Mr. Alan Mitchnick at (202) 219-2826.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-33322 Filed 12-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. ER96-3099-000]

Midwest Energy, Inc.; Notice of Filing

December 26, 1996.

Take notice that on November 27, 1996, Midwest Energy, Inc. (Midwest),